REMARKS

In an Office Action dated January 20, 2004, (paper no. 2) the Examiner objected to FIG. 1 a missing a legend such as "Prior Art." The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, and 11-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Rasmussen (U.S. patent no. 5,475,731, hereinafter referred to as "Weaver, Jr."). The Examiner objected to claims 2, 4-10, and 16-18 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The rejections and objections are traversed and reconsideration is hereby respectfully requested.

In order to put the application in condition for allowance, the applicant has incorporated the limitations of 'objected to' claim 2 into claim 1 and cancelled claim 2. In addition, the applicant has incorporated the limitations of 'objected to' claim 16 into claim 14 and has incorporated the limitations of base claim 14 and intervening claim 15 into 'objected to' claim 18. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests that claims 1, 14, and 18 may now be passed to allowance.

Since claims 3-13 depend upon allowable claim 1 and claims 15 and 17 depend upon allowable claim 14, the applicant respectfully requests that claims 3-13, 15, and 17 may now be passed to allowance.

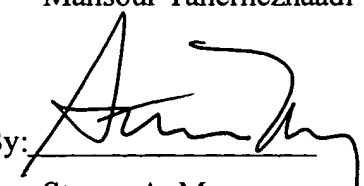
The Examiner objected to FIG. 1 as lacking the legend "Prior Art." Accordingly, a replacement version of FIG. 1 is attached to this Amendment that includes the legend "Prior Art."

As the applicant has overcome all substantive rejections and objections given by the Examiner and have complied with all requests properly presented by the Examiner, the applicant contends that this Amendment, with the above discussion, overcomes the Examiner's objections to and rejections of the pending claims. Therefore, the applicant respectfully solicits allowance of the application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that any issues regarding the status of the claims remain after this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative to expedite resolution of the matter.

Furthermore, please charge any additional fees (including extension of time fees), if any are due, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2117.

Respectfully submitted,

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